

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

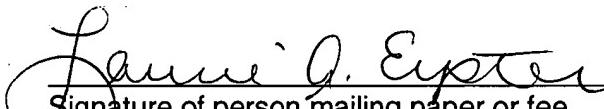
In re patent application of: )  
Liu et al. ) Before the Examiner  
Serial No. FILED HEREWITH ) Not Yet Known  
Filed July 10, 2003 ) Group Art Unit  
SPINAL IMPLANT METHOD AND ) Not Yet Known  
CUTTING TOOL PREPARATION )  
ACCESSORY FOR MOUNTING THE )  
IMPLANT )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider this Preliminary Amendment in the above-captioned application prior to examination. Any additional necessary fees may be charged to or overpayment credited to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include payment of issue fees.

Express Mail Label No.	<b>EV 332718269 US</b>	Date of Deposit	<b>July 10, 2003</b>
I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR Section 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450			
 Signature of person mailing paper or fee			